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PUTTING WEATHER REPORTS TO WORK.

A radio talk by Arthur J. DeMars, meteorologist, Weather Bureau, delivered through WRC and 39 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, January 29, 1931.

Hello Folks:

Today, I am going to talk to you about how Cold Wave and Frost Warnings are put to work. As these warnings are used by farmers, fruit growers, truck raisers, and many others, you and I are benefited by these warnings far more than one would realize. When a great area of high pressure and cold weather is sweeping across the country, the people in the area likely to be affected are notified from 24 to 48 hours in advance. When this happens in the spring, when the orchards are in bloom, action is taken immediately to set out orchard heaters in order to protect the blooms from heavy frost and freezing temperatures. Fourteen million dollars worth of fruit was saved in California in this manner by taking advantage of warnings issued by the Bureau during one cold wave. There are over four million of these orchard heaters in use on the Pacific Coast.

It will be of interest to those who enjoy cranberries with their Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to know how this crop is protected. In the fall when heavy frost is expected, and the berries likely to be destroyed, the cranberry bogs are flooded until after the cold weather has passed or danger of frost is over.

The farmer immediately picks his grapes, beans, unmaturred corn, or other crops likely to be damaged by exposure to low temperatures or frost. Potato digging is suspended and potatoes already dug are removed from the field.

Sugar cane is cut and windrowed upon receipt of advices of Cold Waves and freezing temperature. These advices are also very helpful in the spring to the maple sugar industry, as the collection and boiling of sap are dependent upon coming weather conditions.

Livestock owners used these forecasts to protect cattle by bringing the herds down from the range when freezing temperatures and heavy snows are expected to occur. Sheepmen use these forecasts at lambing and shearing time, and in the South the farmers kill their hogs during cold weather in order that the pork may not spoil.

Power Companies utilizing stream flow to convert it into power are especially interested in coming conditions of temperature. Dams situated at considerable distances from the plants are opened and the water allowed to flow into the dams near the power plant, thus avoiding trouble encountered by the freezing of streams and subsequent slow rate of water flow.

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FORECASTS OF COLD WAVES

Thousands of people take advantage of these forecasts to protect their homes in various ways. The water is turned off from exposed pipe lines, potted plants and flowers are brought indoors, and shrubbery covered with some adequate heavy material to protect it from freezing, and almost every home owner in the country uses the forecasts of cold waves to regulate the buying of coal. When conditions are expected to justify it, coalbins are replenished and much discomfort avoided.
